

Spark it up and char it away

1. A fire rake pushes burnable material into the incinerator while simultaneously sifting the ash to the bottom of the ship's incinerator, Sept. 22.
2. A rake and a shovel, the primary tools used with the incinerator, are set next to the furnace.
3. The door to the incinerator keeps the heat and flames inside the furnace.
4. A face mask is one of the essential pieces of personal protective equipment needed before working with the incinerator.
(Background) Electrician's Mate Seaman Erick Sanchez-Silva forces burnables into the incinerator, Sept. 22.

Photos and Story by MC3 William Weibert

To incinerate is to burn and reduce to ash, to heat things to oblivion and change their chemical compounds so they are no longer recognizable in their former outward appearance.

Aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), Sailors generate vast amounts of waste on a daily basis, all of which needs to be disposed of properly and in an environmentally friendly way. Some of this waste is bundled, while various other forms are melted into disks or pulped, but there are a number of materials that must be burned. On TR, the temporarily assigned crew of the incinerator has the monumental task of destroying these materials properly.

"A Navy carrier generates as much as 16 dumpsters full of waste every 24 hours," said Chief Storekeeper (SW) Timothy White, of Supply Department's S-8 division. "It's our job to process all that."

Items that can be sent to the incinerator for disposal include things such as classified paper, feminine hygiene products, non-infectious medical waste and cardboard.

Things that should definitely not be sent to the incinerator include any form of aerosol can, hairspray, hair removal

product, shaving cream or any other product that has some form of pressurized air because all of these products could cause an explosion when set ablaze. Also, any item that could be classified as a plastic product is not to be burned.

The incinerator is not run 24 hours a day. Many restrictions apply to the operation of this equipment and the ship's safety is always in mind.

"We can't burn during Sea and Anchor detail, within 12 miles of land, during a refueling, deceptive lighting or weapons movement," said White. "The incinerator constitutes hot work and all hot work is secured during these times."

Sailors need to properly sort their waste before taking it to any of the ship's disposal facilities.

"We are receiving stations, not sorting stations," said White. "So please sort everything properly before sending it to us."

The ship's instruction on Solid Waste Management states, "The environmental protection and solid waste management is an all hands effort. Everyone needs to be responsible for ensuring all solid waste is sorted, cleaned and properly packaged prior to disposal. Room operators will reject bags that aren't sorted."



